

REMARKS

By way of the amendment instructions above, the specification has been revised so as to insert an appropriate cross-reference to the international application and EP priority application for the subject US national phase application.

Claims 1-8 and 19-21 directed to patentably distinct subject matter non-elected for prosecution herein have been cancelled but such cancellation has been effected without prejudice to the applicants' rights under 35 USC §121.

Claim 9 has been recast in independent form so as to include the subject matter of prior claim 1. Claims 10 and 14 have been amended so as to remove the improper multiple dependencies therefore since each is now dependent only from claim 9. By such revision, claim 18 is thus now properly multiply dependent from one of claims 10-17.

Finally, the Examiner's attention is directed to a concurrently filed Information Disclosure Statement. Consideration of the information cited in such Statement during further prosecution of this application is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

FUNDA et al
Serial No. 10/530,167
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Early receipt of the Official Allowance Notice is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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